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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/764,701	01/26/2004	William Ricigliano	RICIGLIANO-GOLF	9166
4988	7590	10/01/2004	EXAMINER	
ALFRED M. WALKER 225 OLD COUNTRY ROAD MELVILLE, NY 11747-2712			GRAHAM, MARK S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3711

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/764,701	<b>Applicant(s)</b> RICIGLIANO, WILLIAM	
	<b>Examiner</b> Mark S. Graham	<b>Art Unit</b> 3711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mazer.

Mazer's golf course has tee areas and holes. The tee area and the hole on consecutive fairways coincide with one another. The hole area of one consecutive fairway is capable of being used as the tee area of the next fairway and thus may be considered a tee area comprised of consecutive ring areas. Although Mazer's device is not intended to be used in such a manner the intended use or method of play is not at issue in the claims.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricigliano in view of Mazer. Ricigliano discloses the claimed device with the exception of the concentric intermediate target area. However, as disclosed by Mazer it is known in the art to provide concentric circular target areas. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided Ricigliano's intermediate circular target areas as concentric targets as disclosed by Mazer as well to add further interest to the game.

Concerning the multiple tees, the examiner takes official notice that such is commonly known in the golf art to provide golfers of different abilities with different starting positions.

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Regarding the simulated artificial environmental effects, Ricigliano's indoor course would obviously have been in need of lighting which is considered the simulated artificial environmental effect.

With regard to the liquid satiation, Ricigliano's course, (as would virtually any course) is capable of being satiated with liquid and then cleaned up.

Concerning claim 5, the "deposited particles" may simply be dirt which would inherently collect on the course.

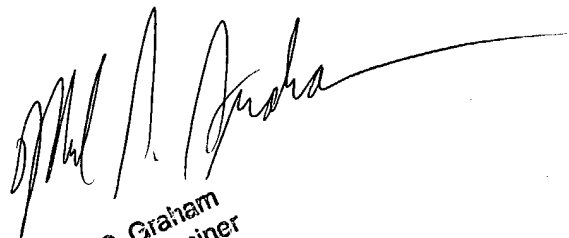
Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricigliano. Ricigliano discloses the claimed device with the exception of the simulated artificial environmental effects, Ricigliano's indoor course, however, would obviously have been in need of lighting which is considered the simulated artificial environmental effect.

With regard to the liquid satiation, Ricigliano's course, (as would virtually any course) is capable of being satiated with liquid and then cleaned up.

Garber has been cited for interest because it discloses a similar course.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Mark S. Graham at telephone number 703-308-1355.

MSG  
9/23/04



Mark S. Graham  
Primary Examiner